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CAPTAIN ATOM
NO. 88
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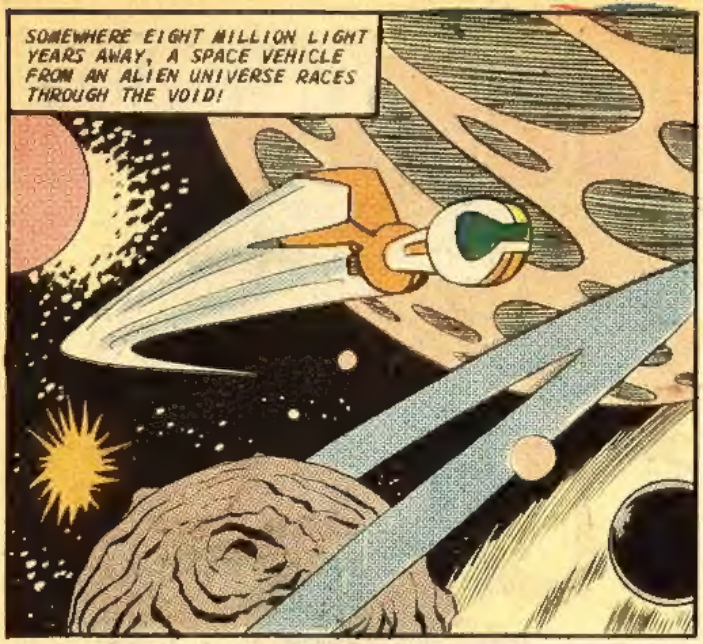
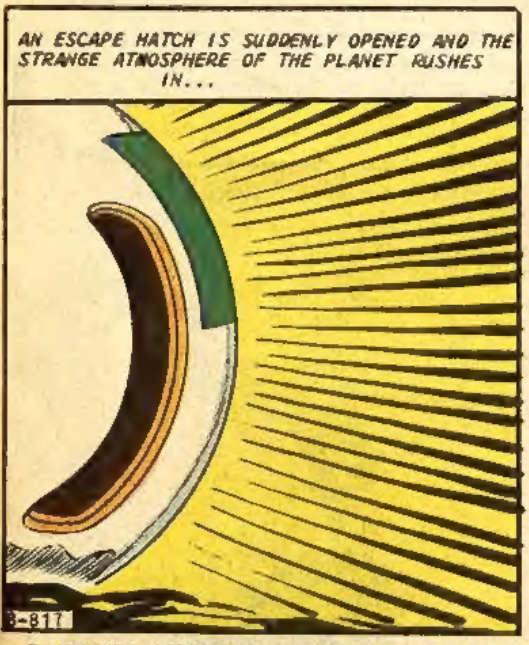
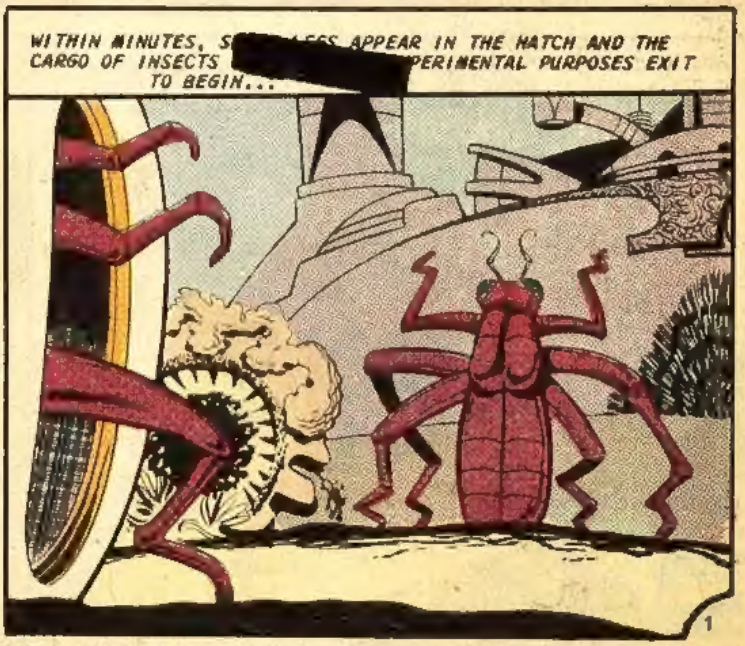
"THE RAVAGE OF RONTHOR!"
DITKO
McLAUGHLIN







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RAVAGE OF RONTHOR

WRITTEN BY: DAVE KALER
PENCILED BY: STEVE DITKO
INKED BY: FRANK MCLAUGHLIN
LETTERED BY: A. MACHINE

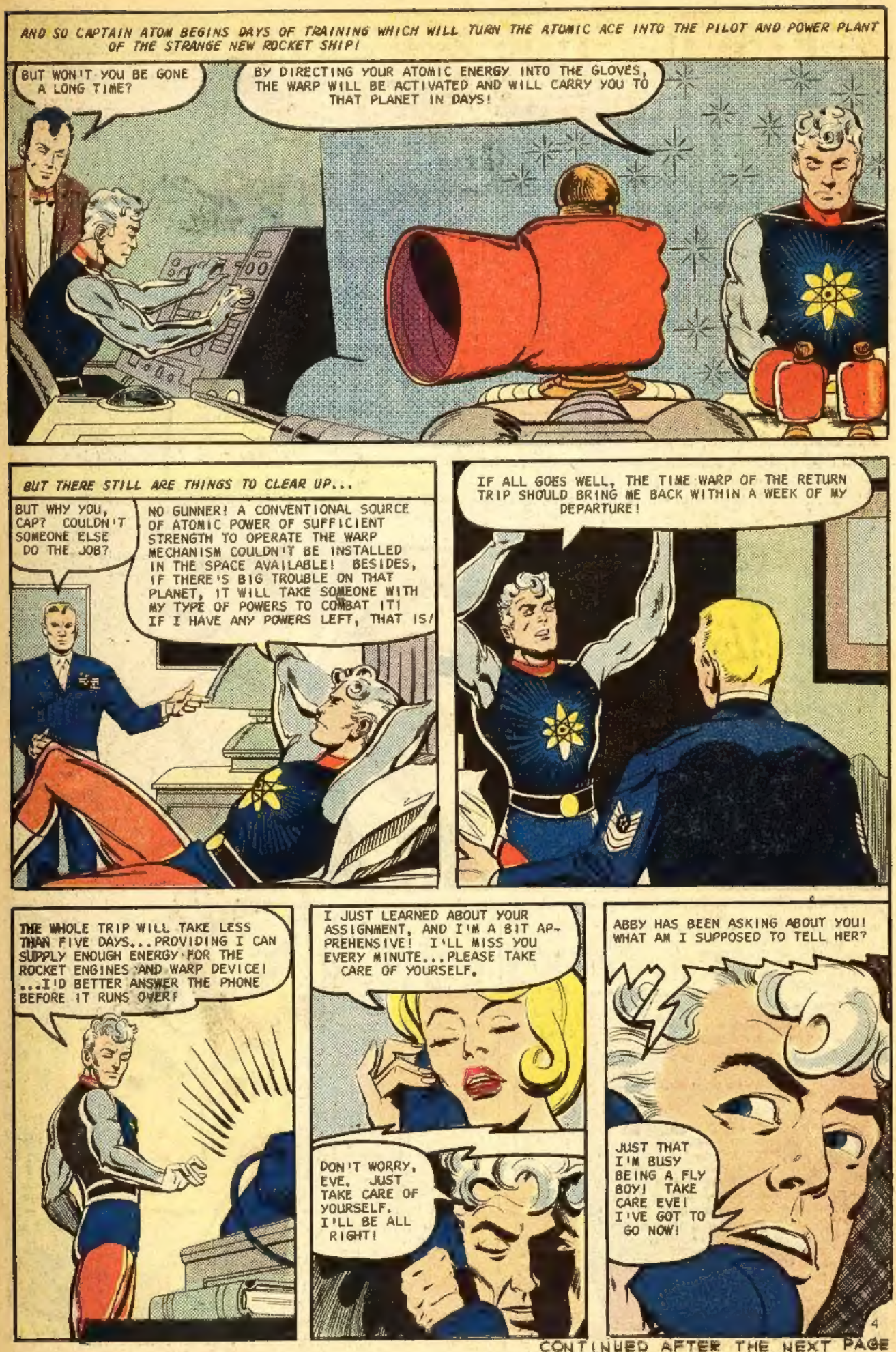
AND THOUSANDS OF LIGHT YEARS AWAY ON THE PLANET EARTH, CAPTAIN ATOM IS ABOUT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS INSECT INVASION!

A SPECIAL CREW HAS BEEN ASSEMBLED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROJECT, CAPTAIN ATOM! THE ROCKET WILL TAKE YOU TO THE PLANET FROM WHICH THE SOS ORIGINATED.

DO I UNDERSTAND THAT I'M GOING TO HELP CONTROL THE ROCKET FROM INSIDE OF IT?

ORDINARY ROCKETS WORK ON FUEL ALONE! THIS NEW ONE OPERATES ON THE PRINCIPLE OF A SPACE WARP AND THE BREAKING OF THE TIME CONTINUUM! THE ENGINEERS WILL BRIEF YOU THOROUGHLY.

AT THE PROJECT CONTROL CENTER...
THIS IS FRANK JUSTICE AND ANDY YANCHUS, THE TWO MEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ROCKET YOU'LL BE FLYING, CAPTAIN ATOM! GENTLEMEN, CAPTAIN ATOM AND SERGEANT GOSLIN!
WHEN THE FIRST S.O.S. SIGNALS WERE HEARD, I'D BEEN WORKING ON A NEW DESIGN TO TEST VIBRATORY EFFECTS THAT A ROCKET WILL BE EXPOSED TO IN SPACE.
THAT'S WHERE I CAME IN! I'VE BEEN TESTING SPACE WARP THEORIES THAT COULD MAKE THE MECHANISM WORK!
SO THE GOVERNMENT TEAMED US UP HERE TO DEVELOP A SHIP THAT COULD GET SOMEONE TO THE PLANET IN DISTRESS AND INVESTIGATE!
FIGURING OUT THE DISTANCE IN LIGHT YEARS, THE S.O.S. WAS CENTURIES OLD, BUT IN BREAKING THE TIME CONTINUUM, YOU SHOULD ARRIVE THERE SOMETIME CLOSE AFTER IT FIRST WAS SENT OUT!
AND SO YOU'RE ON A RESCUE MISSION IN SPACE WHICH WILL TAKE YOU BACK IN TIME AND WHICH WILL ONLY OPERATE IF YOU SUPPLY THE NECESSARY ATOMIC ENERGY!


AND SO CAPTAIN ATOM BEGINS DAYS OF TRAINING WHICH WILL TURN THE ATOMIC ACE INTO THE PILOT AND POWER PLANT OF THE STRANGE NEW ROCKET SHIP!
BUT WON'T YOU BE GONE A LONG TIME?
BY DIRECTING YOUR ATOMIC ENERGY INTO THE GLOVES, THE WARP WILL BE ACTIVATED AND WILL CARRY YOU TO THAT PLANET IN DAYS!
BUT THERE STILL ARE THINGS TO CLEAR UP...
BUT WHY YOU, CAP? COULDN'T SOMEONE ELSE DO THE JOB?
NO GUNNER! A CONVENTIONAL SOURCE OF ATOMIC POWER OF SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO OPERATE THE WARP MECHANISM COULDN'T BE INSTALLED IN THE SPACE AVAILABLE! BESIDES, IF THERE'S BIG TROUBLE ON THAT PLANET, IT WILL TAKE SOMEONE WITH MY TYPE OF POWERS TO COMBAT IT! IF I HAVE ANY POWERS LEFT, THAT IS!
IF ALL GOES WELL, THE TIME WARP OF THE RETURN TRIP SHOULD BRING ME BACK WITHIN A WEEK OF MY DEPARTURE!
THE WHOLE TRIP WILL TAKE LESS THAN FIVE DAYS...PROVIDING I CAN SUPPLY ENOUGH ENERGY FOR THE ROCKET ENGINES AND WARP DEVICE! ...I'D BETTER ANSWER THE PHONE BEFORE IT RUNS OVER!
I JUST LEARNED ABOUT YOUR ASSIGNMENT, AND I'M A BIT APPREHENSIVE! I'LL MISS YOU EVERY MINUTE...PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
DON'T WORRY, EVE. JUST TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. I'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
ABBY HAS BEEN ASKING ABOUT YOU! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO TELL HER?
JUST THAT I'M BUSY BEING A FLY BOY! TAKE CARE EVE! I'VE GOT TO GO NOW!
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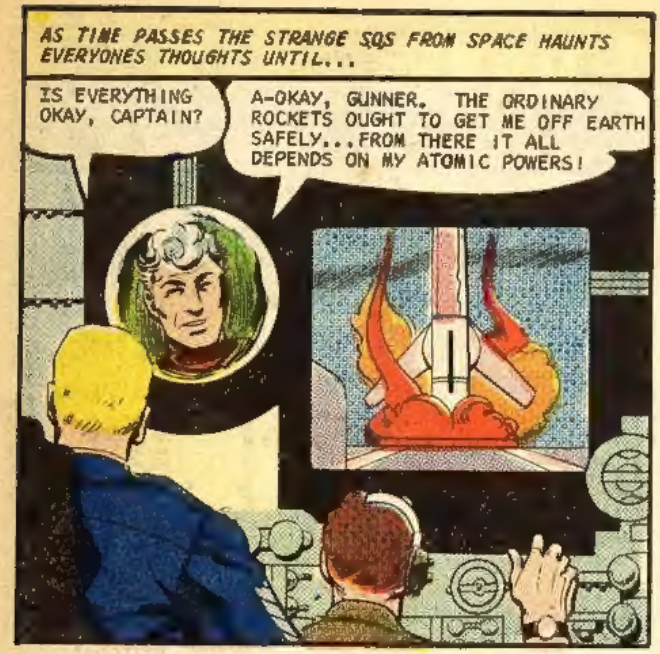
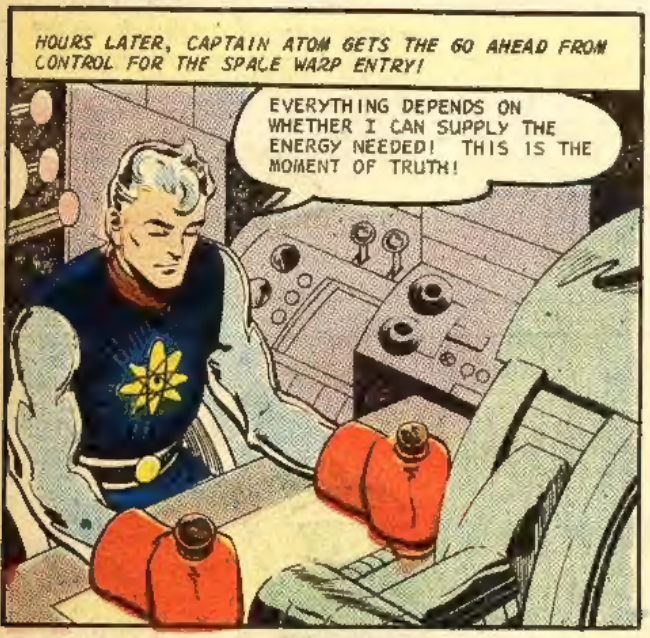
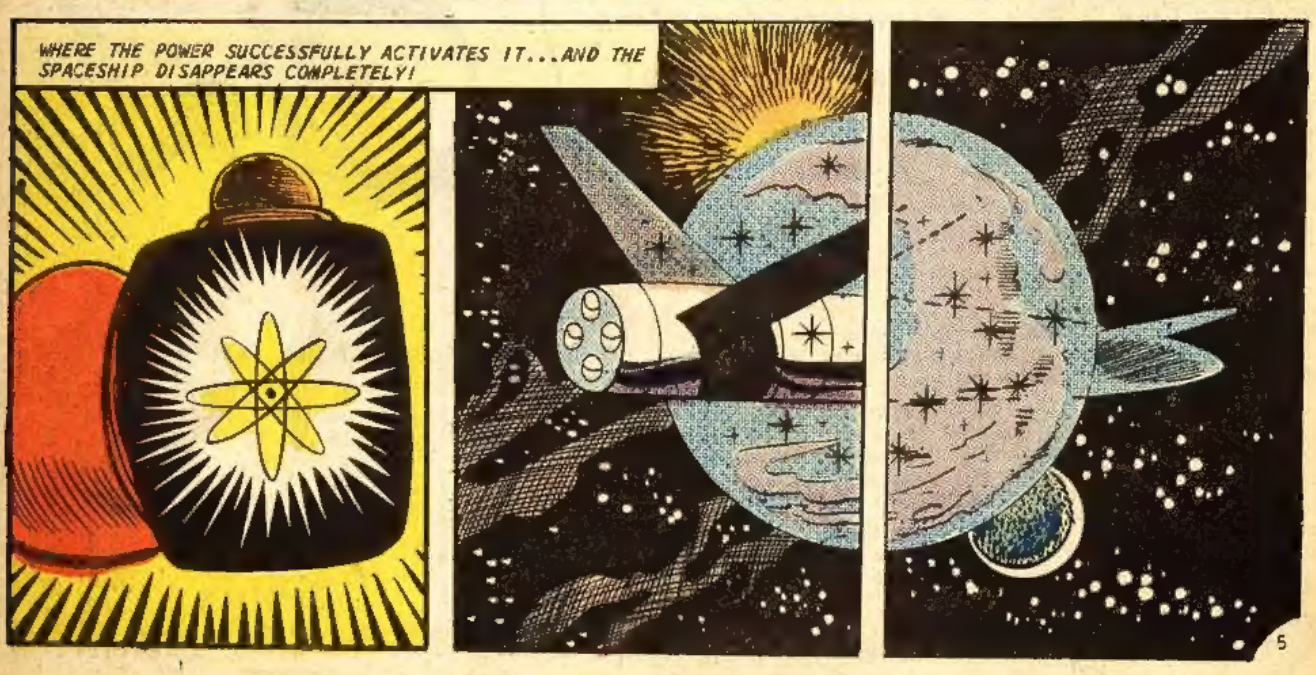

AS TIME PASSES THE STRANGE SOS FROM SPACE HAUNTS EVERYONES THOUGHTS UNTIL...
IS EVERYTHING OKAY, CAPTAIN?
A-OKAY, GUNNER. THE ORDINARY ROCKETS OUGHT TO GET ME OFF EARTH SAFELY...FROM THERE IT ALL DEPENDS ON MY ATOMIC POWERS!

A FLAWLESS COUNT DOWN! AND WITH A LOUD BLAST THE NEW ROCKET ROARS CLEAR OF THE LAUNCH PAD AND STREAKS FOR THE STARS!
GOOD LUCK, CAP!
LET'S HOPE WHATEVER IS CAUSING THE TROUBLE UP THERE HAS AN ALLERGY TO ATOMS HIS ESPECIALLY!

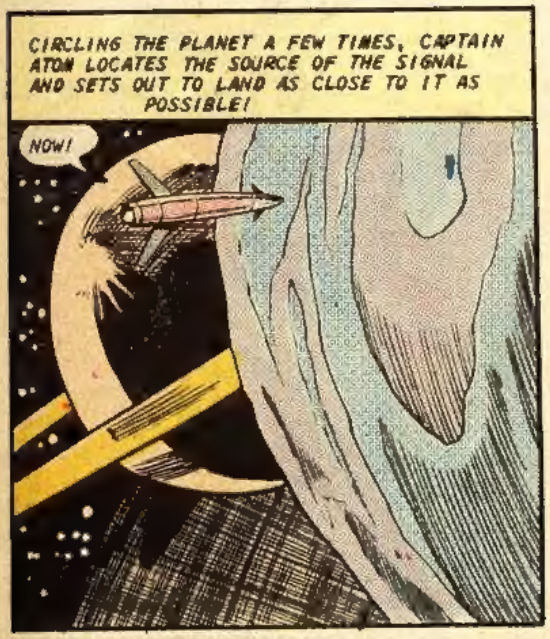

HOURS LATER, CAPTAIN ATOM GETS THE GO AHEAD FROM CONTROL FOR THE SPACE WARP ENTRY!
EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON WHETHER I CAN SUPPLY THE ENERGY NEEDED! THIS IS THE MOMENT OF TRUTH!

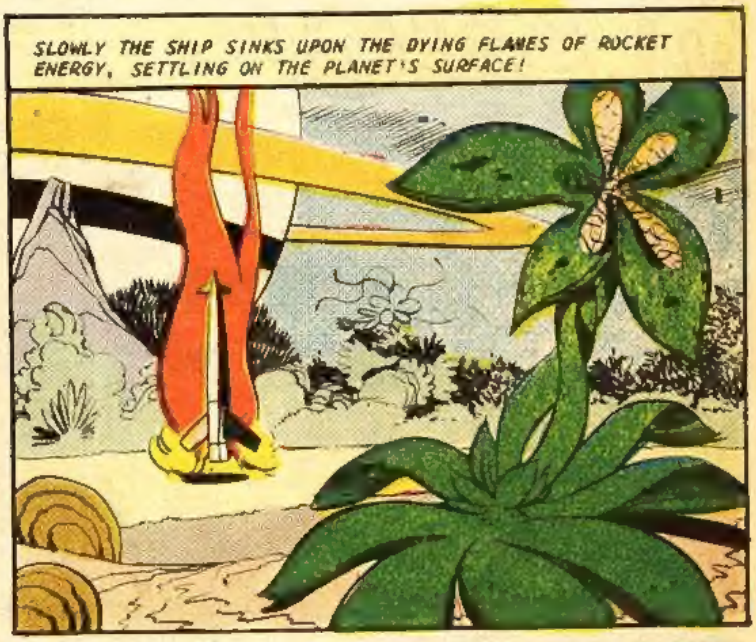
CONCENTRATING ALL HIS ENERGY INTO ATOMIC POWER, CAPTAIN ATOM SHOOTS BOLT AFTER BOLT INTO THE MECHANISM RUNNING THE WARP MECHANISM...


WHERE THE POWER SUCCESSFULLY ACTIVATES IT...AND THE SPACESHIP DISAPPEARS COMPLETELY!

DAYS LATER THE SHIP LEAVES THE SPACE WARP AND REAPPEARS NEAR THE PLANET CENTURIES IN THE PAST!

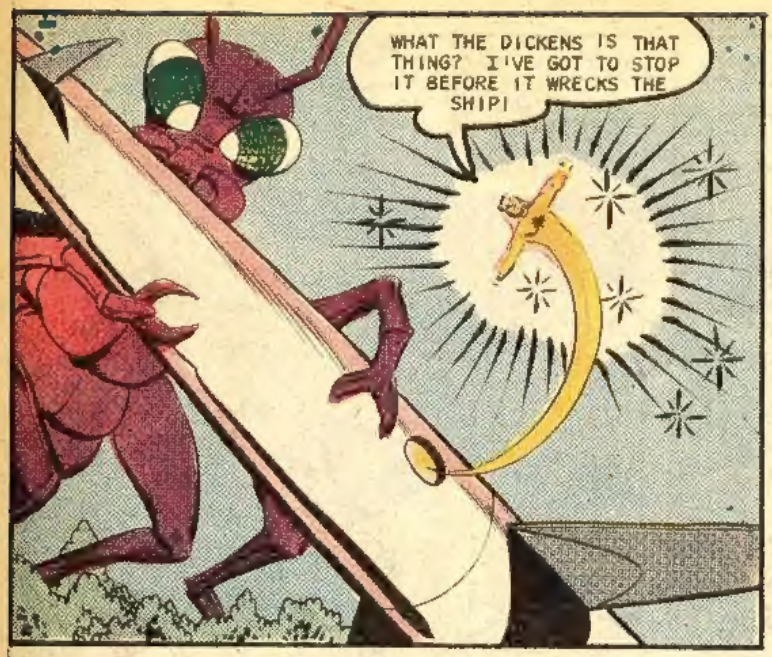
COME IN! COME IN! FUNNY! NO RESPONSE EVEN THOUGH THE DISTRESS SIGNAL IS STILL COMING THROUGH FROM THE PLANET!


CIRCLING THE PLANET A FEW TIMES, CAPTAIN ATOM LOCATES THE SOURCE OF THE SIGNAL AND SETS OUT TO LAND AS CLOSE TO IT AS POSSIBLE!
NOW!

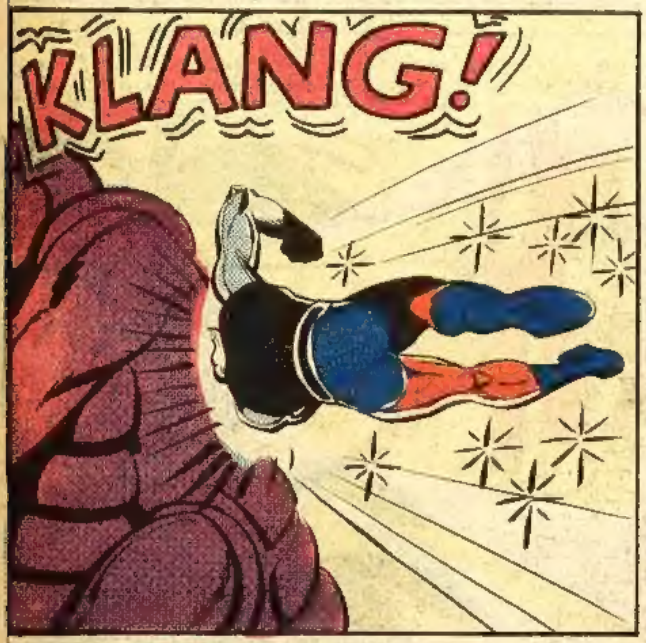

SLOWLY THE SHIP SINKS UPON THE DYING FLAMES OF ROCKET ENERGY, SETTLING ON THE PLANET'S SURFACE!

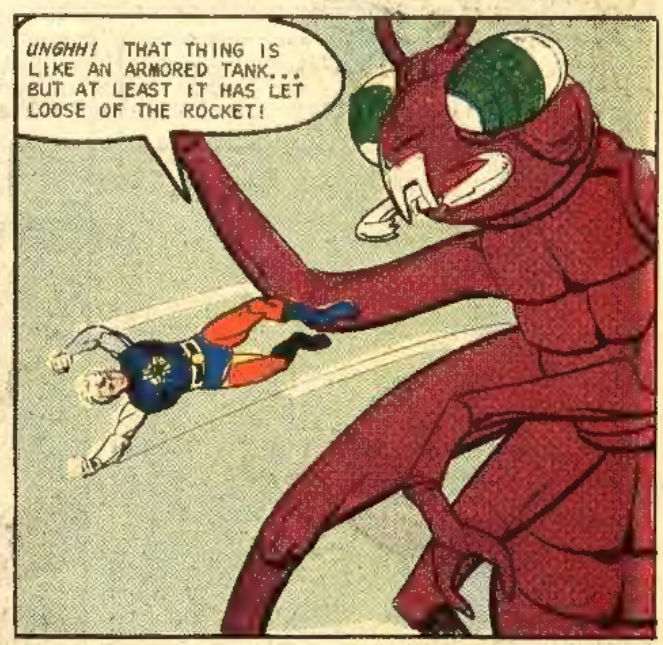
MY COMPACT RADIO SET SHOULD BE ABLE TO PICK UP THE SIGNAL AND LEAD ME TO THE SENDER!

WHA...? WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?


WHAT THE DICKENS IS THAT THING? I'VE GOT TO STOP IT BEFORE IT WRECKS THE SHIP!

IF IT GETS TO THE ROCKET FUEL SECTION I COULD BE STRANDED HERE! THAT THING COULD EXPLODE!


KLANG!

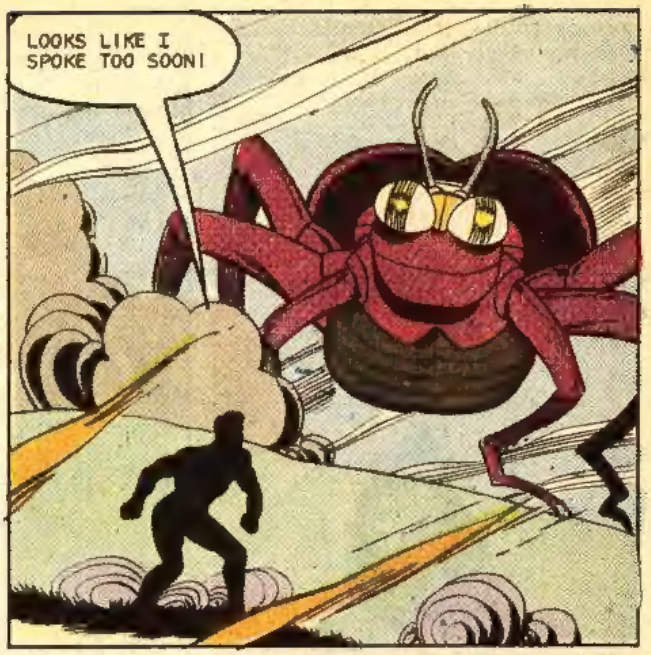

UNGHH! THAT THING IS LIKE AN ARMORED TANK... BUT AT LEAST IT HAS LET LOOSE OF THE ROCKET!

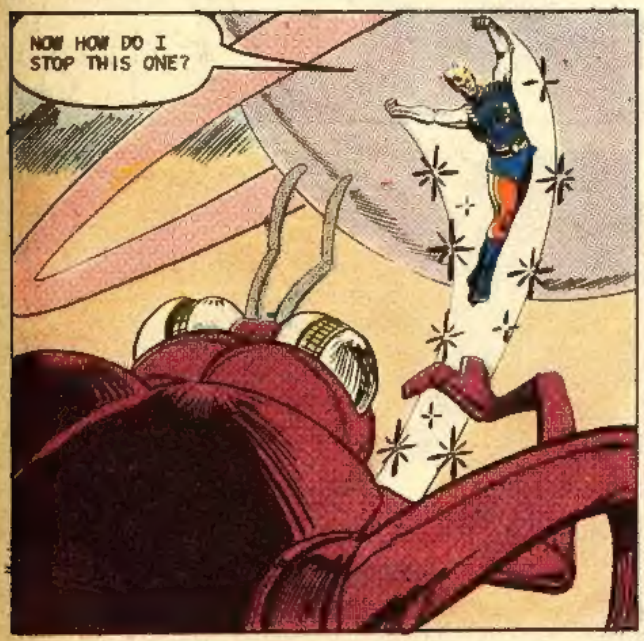
GOT TO USE MY POWERS SPARINGLY OR I WON'T HAVE ENOUGH FOR THE TRIP HOME!

CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD!... GOT TO GET OUT!

WHAT'S THIS! NOT ONLY IS IT BUILT LIKE A TANK BUT, IT CARRIES ITS OWN NATURAL ARTILLERY!
IT'S STICKING LIKE A SPIDER'S WEB!
MY ONLY CHANCE...
WITH AN EXPLOSIVE ROAR, THE SIDE OF THE HUGE INSECT BURSTS INTO FLAME!
THAT STOPPED HIM!

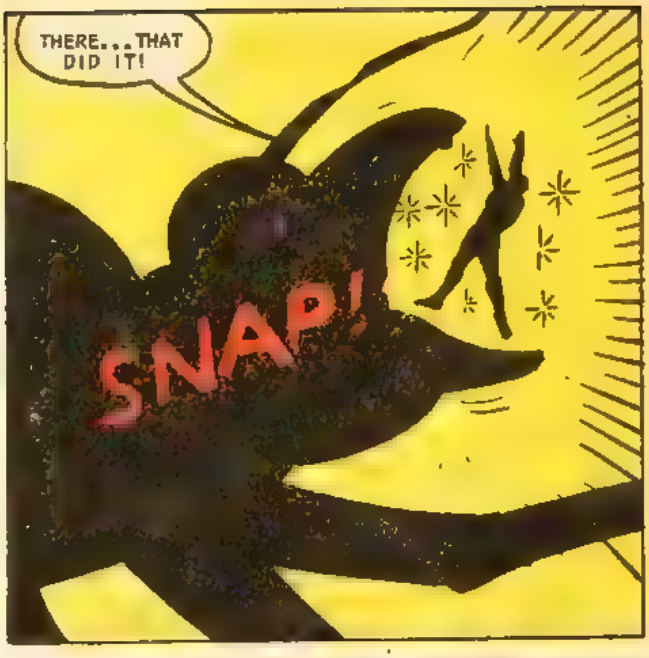
HOPE THERE AREN'T TOO MANY MORE LIKE HIM AROUND! I'LL HAVE MY HANDS FULL!

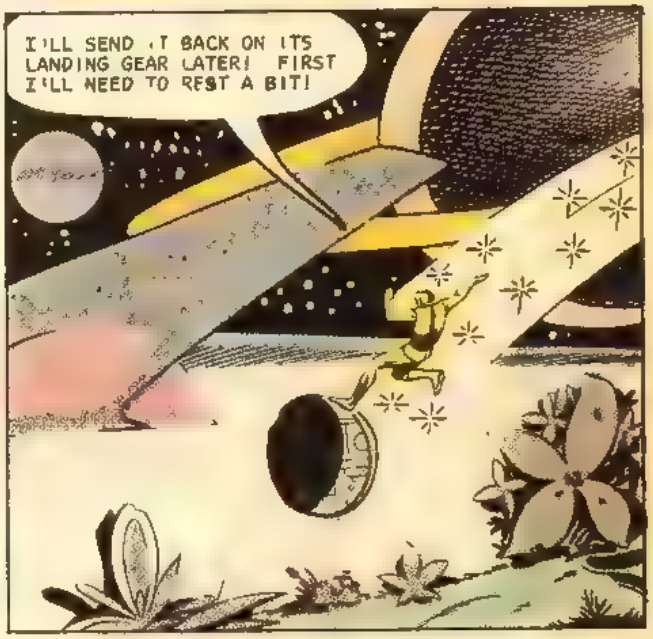

LOOKS LIKE I SPOKE TOO SOON!

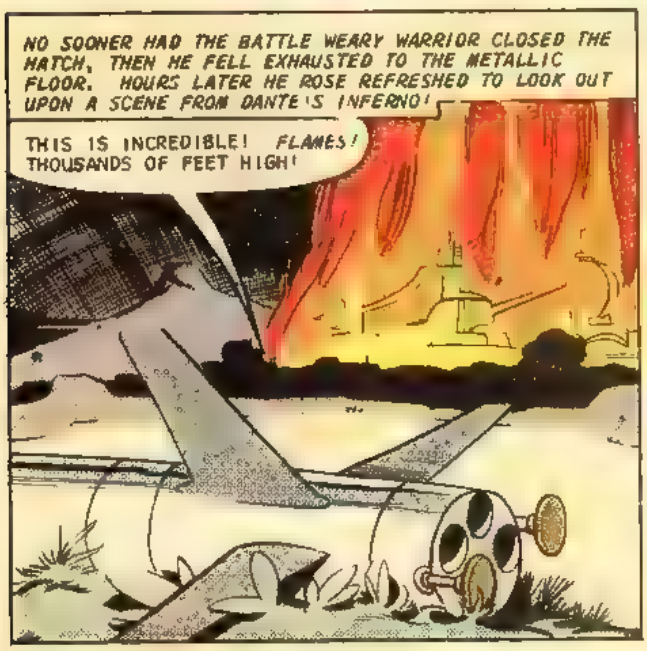

NOW HOW DO I STOP THIS ONE?

BUT BEFORE CAPTAIN ATOM CAN DECIDE ON A COURSE OF ACTION, HE IS HIT BY A BLAST OF XRAYS THAT STUN HIM!!
AIIEE!

AAHHH!



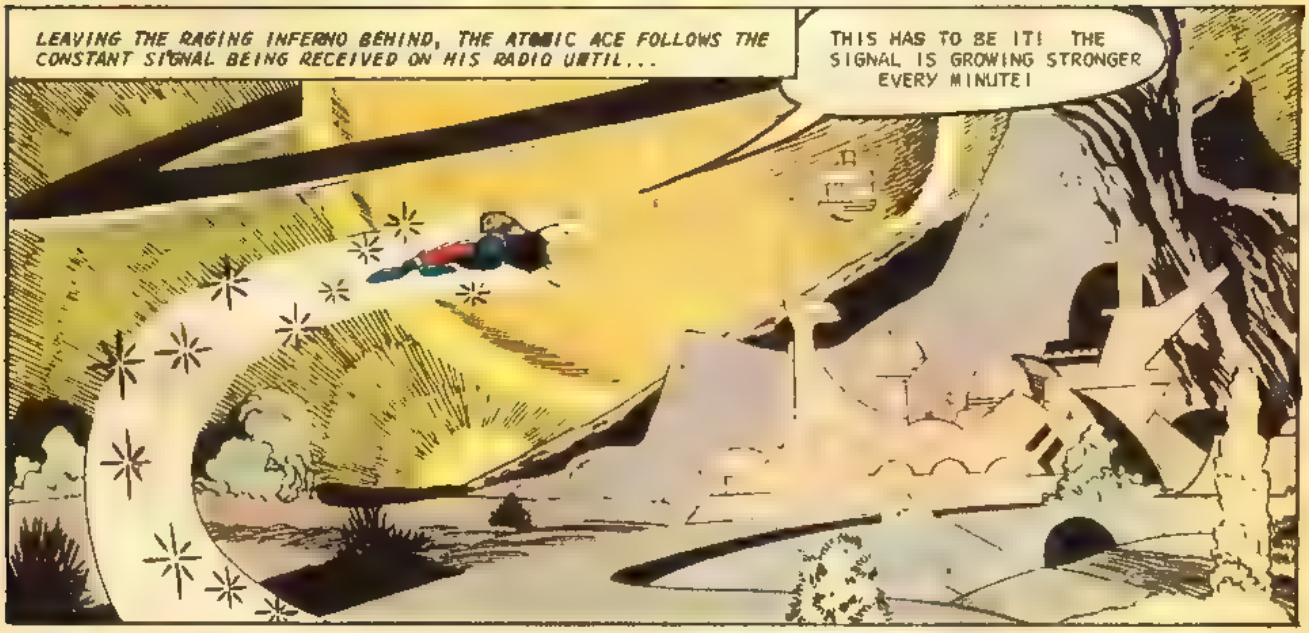


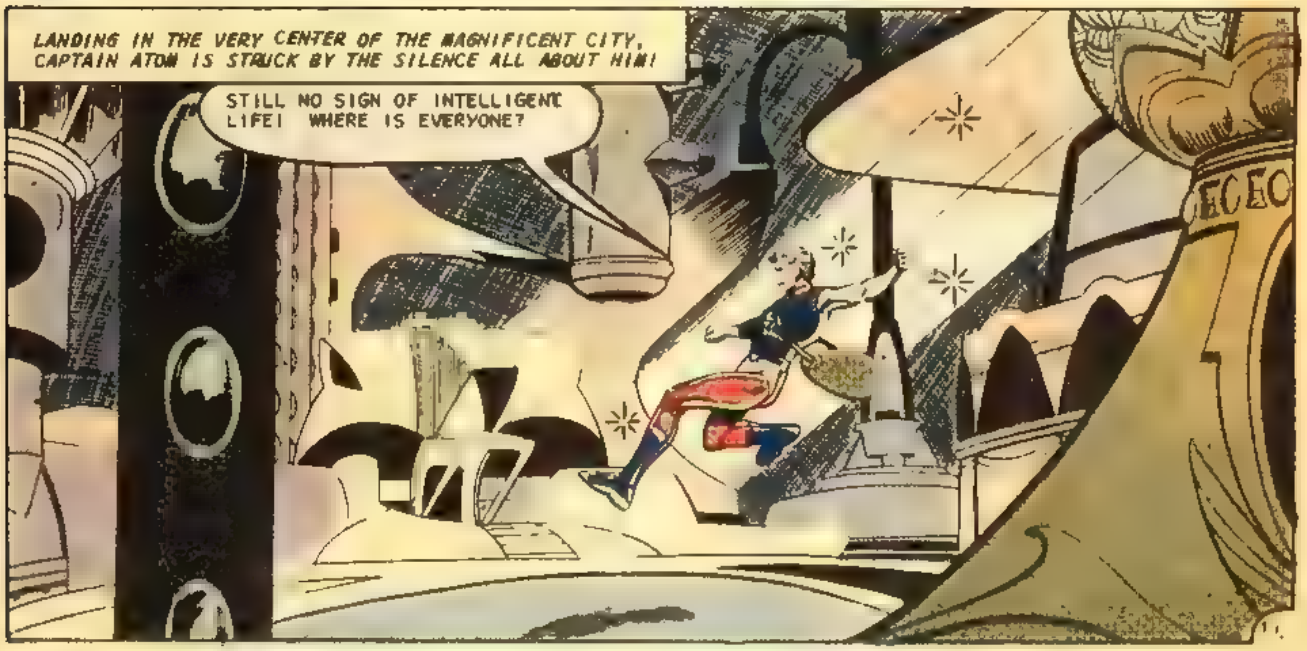

NO SOONER HAD THE BATTLE WEARY WARRIOR CLOSED THE HATCH, THEN HE FELL EXHAUSTED TO THE METALLIC FLOOR. HOURS LATER HE ROSE REFRESHED TO LOOK OUT UPON A SCENE FROM DANTE'S INFERNO!
THIS IS INCREDIBLE! FLAMES! THOUSANDS OF FEET HIGH!

GOT TO BE PREPARED FOR THOSE INSECTS! DON'T WANT TO USE TOO MUCH POWER AND GET STRANDED OUT THERE! THESE SHOULD HELP IF I GET INTO ANOTHER FIX!

CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

SETTING HIS COMPACT RADIO SET TO LEAD HIM TO THE POINT OF ORIGIN OF THE DISTRESS SIGNAL, CAPTAIN ATOM FLIES OVER THE FUNERAL PYRE THAT ONCE WAS A PROUD CITY!
A WHOLE CITY WIPED OUT! BUT WHY ISN'T ANYBODY HERE TO TRY AND STOP IT? THERE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT THE METROPOLIS?

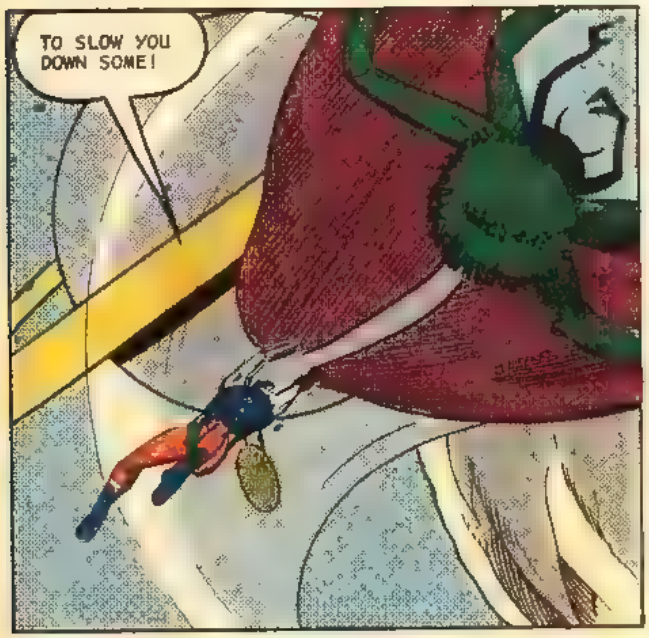

LEAVING THE RAGING INFERNO BEHIND, THE ATOMIC ACE FOLLOWS THE CONSTANT SIGNAL BEING RECEIVED ON HIS RADIO UNTIL...
THIS HAS TO BE IT! THE SIGNAL IS GROWING STRONGER EVERY MINUTE!

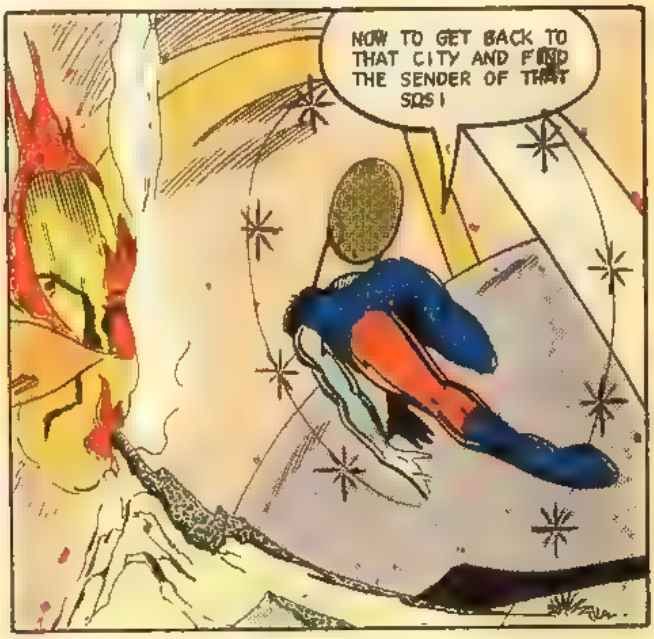

LANDING IN THE VERY CENTER OF THE MAGNIFICENT CITY, CAPTAIN ATOM IS STRUCK BY THE SILENCE ALL ABOUT HIM!
STILL NO SIGN OF INTELLIGENT LIFE! WHERE IS EVERYONE?

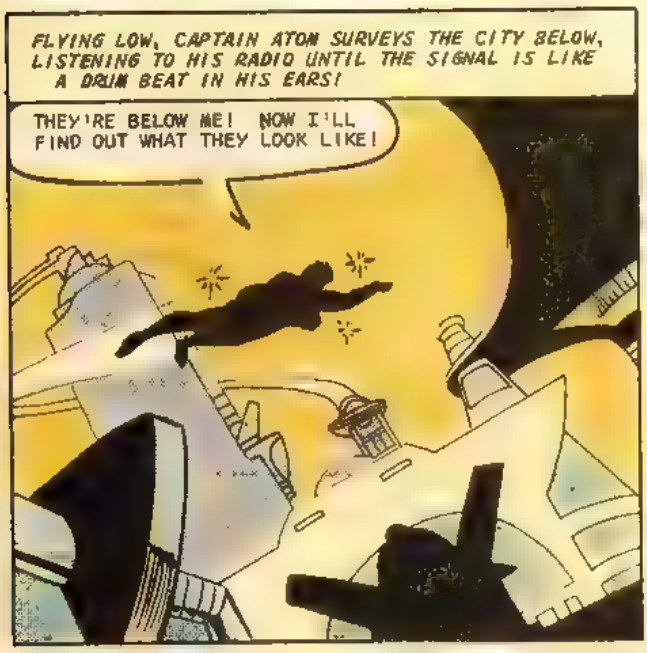
WHAT WAS THAT?
ANOTHER ONE!
GOT TO STOP THIS THING! MAYBE THE CHEMICALS FROM THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER!
LET GO, YOU OVERGROWN FUGITIVE FROM A DDT COMMERCIAL!
THIS STUFF HAS NO EFFECT ON IT! BUT IT HELPED ME SLIP OUT OF ITS GRASP!
THAT THING DOESN'T GIVE UP EASILY!
12.

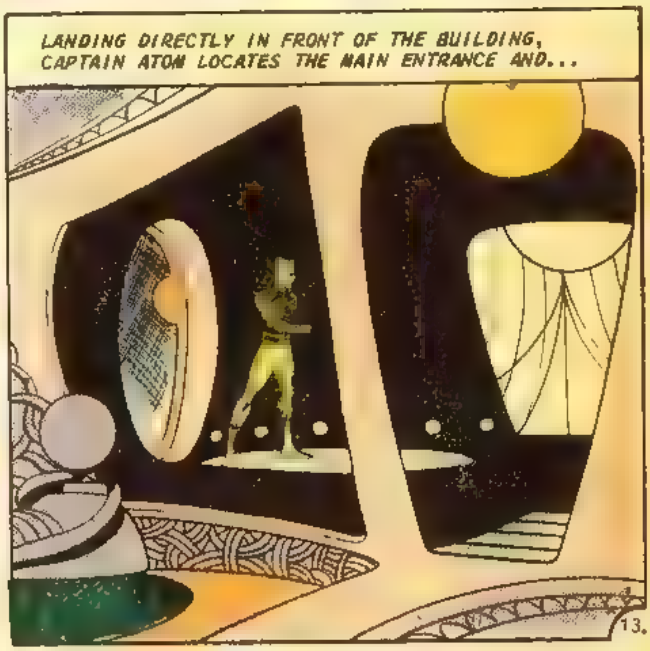
THE ONLY WAY TO TACKLE THIS BABY IS DIRECTLY!

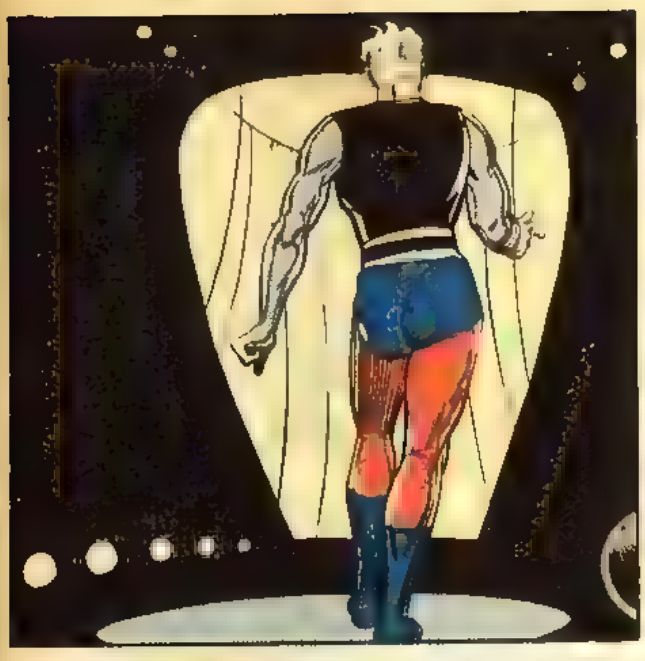
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN THINK OF...


TO SLOW YOU DOWN SOME!


NOW TO GET BACK TO THAT CITY AND FIND THE SENDER OF THAT SOS!


FLYING LOW, CAPTAIN ATOM SURVEYS THE CITY BELOW, LISTENING TO HIS RADIO UNTIL THE SIGNAL IS LIKE A DRUM BEAT IN HIS EARS!
THEY'RE BELOW ME! NOW I'LL FIND OUT WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE!


LANDING DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING, CAPTAIN ATOM LOCATES THE MAIN ENTRANCE AND...



WELCOME, EARTHMAN! IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE ANY HUMANOIDS HAVE VISITED RONTHOR!

DON'T BE ALARMED! THERE'S NO ONE HERE TO HARM YOU!

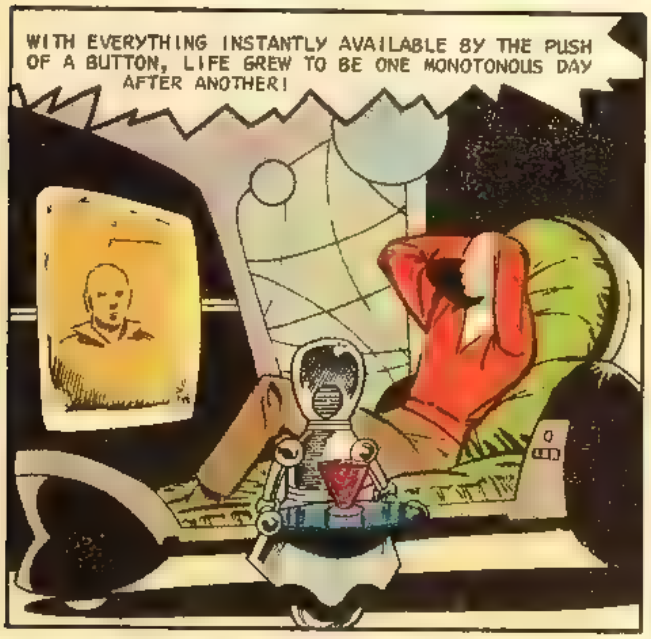
BE SEATED. MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME, CAPTAIN ATOM. I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU!

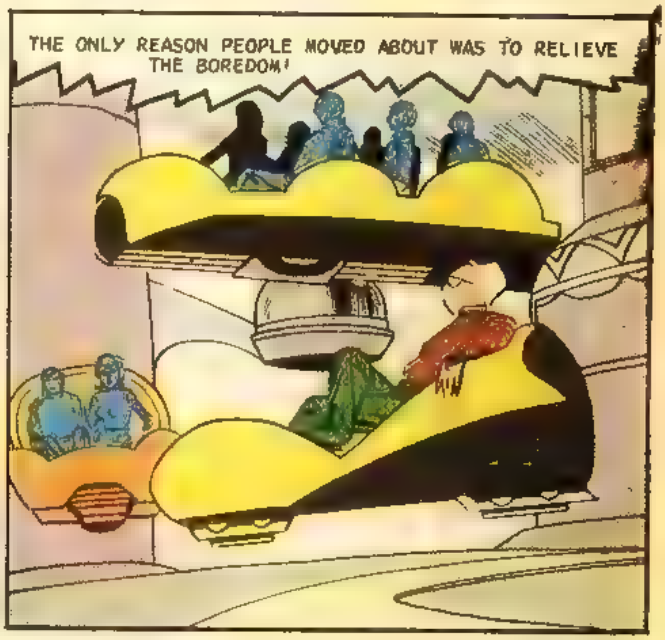
AS YOU ENTERED THE BUILDING, YOUR MIND AND PHYSICAL MAKE-UP WERE COMPLETELY CHECKED BY MY DETECTION SCANNER!

EVERY THOUGHT YOU'VE EVER HAD WAS IMMEDIATELY TRANSFERRED INTO ELECTRICAL IMPULSES AND ENTERED INTO MY COMPUTOR SYSTEM! BY THE TIME YOU TOOK TWO MORE STEPS, I WAS ABLE TO SPEAK TO YOU IN YOUR OWN TONGUE!

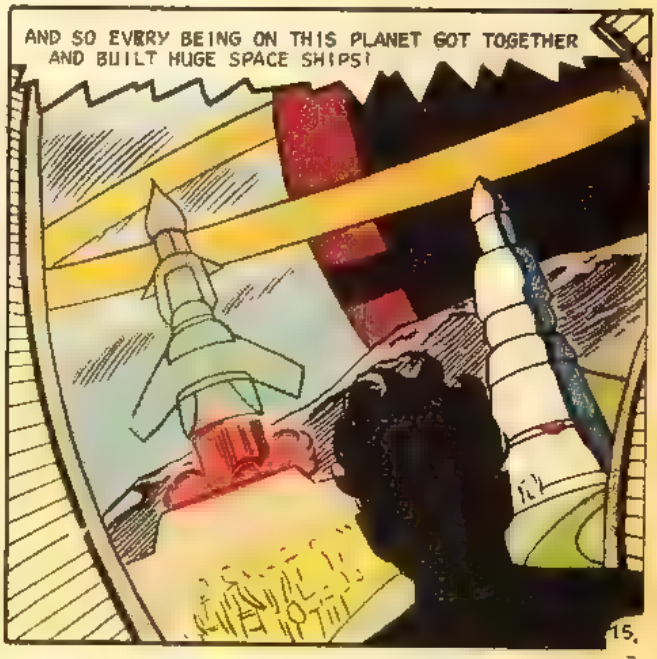
CENTURIES AGO THIS VERY CITY WAS TEEMING WITH LIFE! IT WAS A CIVILIZATION THAT LACKED NOTHING EXCEPT...*THE WILL TO LIVE!*

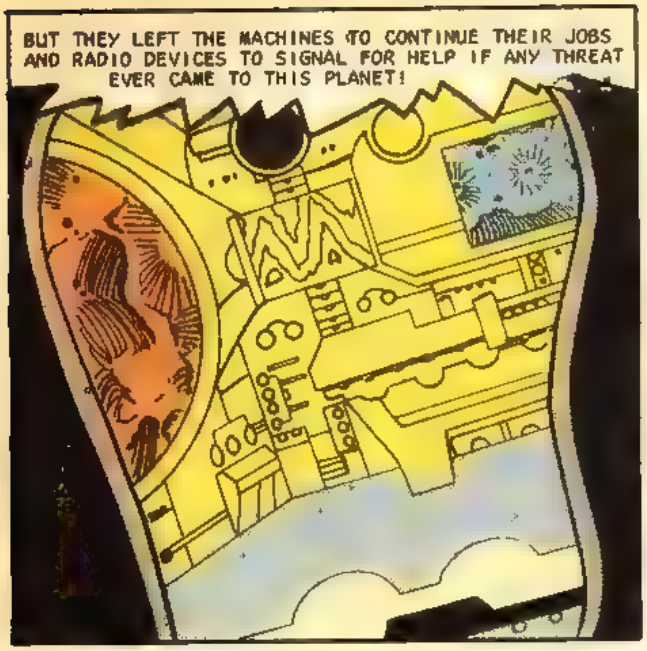
EVERYTHING HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE TO MAKE LIFE EASY AND UNCOMPLICATED! WE HAD NEVER KNOWN WARS AND THEREFORE GREW AND PROSPERED CONSTANTLY.

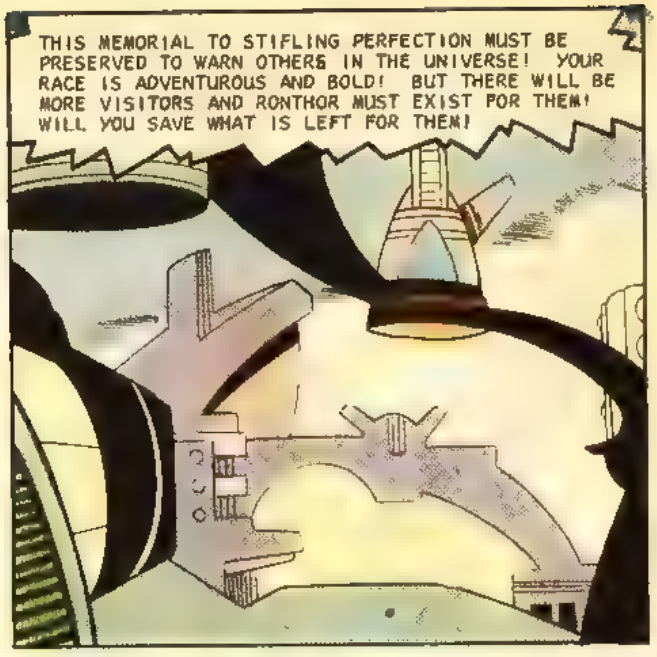

WITH EVERYTHING INSTANTLY AVAILABLE BY THE PUSH OF A BUTTON, LIFE GREW TO BE ONE MONOTONOUS DAY AFTER ANOTHER!


THE ONLY REASON PEOPLE MOVED ABOUT WAS TO RELIEVE THE BOREDOM!

AND WHEN ALL ELSE FAILED TO GIVE THEM ANY PLEASURE, THEY SIMPLY LAID BACK AND WAITED TO DIE!

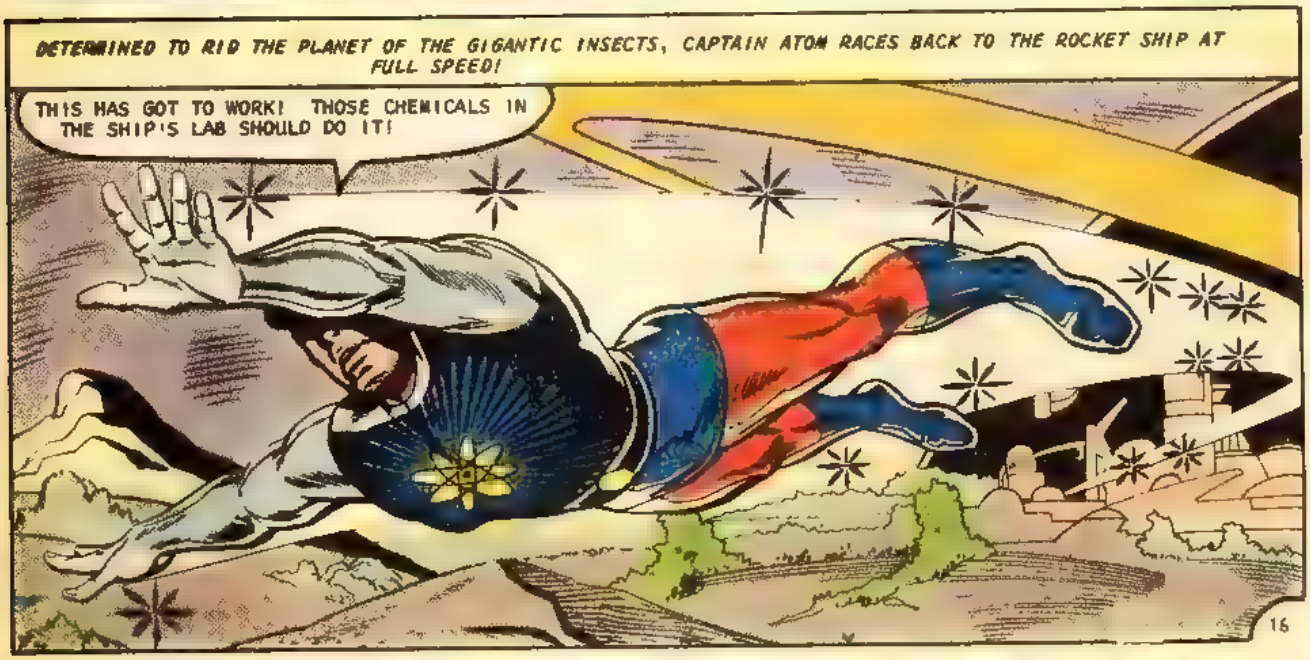

AND SO EVERY BEING ON THIS PLANET GOT TOGETHER AND BUILT HUGE SPACE SHIPS!


BUT THEY LEFT THE MACHINES TO CONTINUE THEIR JOBS AND RADIO DEVICES TO SIGNAL FOR HELP IF ANY THREAT EVER CAME TO THIS PLANET!


THIS MEMORIAL TO STIFLING PERFECTION MUST BE PRESERVED TO WARN OTHERS IN THE UNIVERSE! YOUR RACE IS ADVENTUROUS AND BOLD! BUT THERE WILL BE MORE VISITORS AND RONTHOR MUST EXIST FOR THEM! WILL YOU SAVE WHAT IS LEFT FOR THEM!

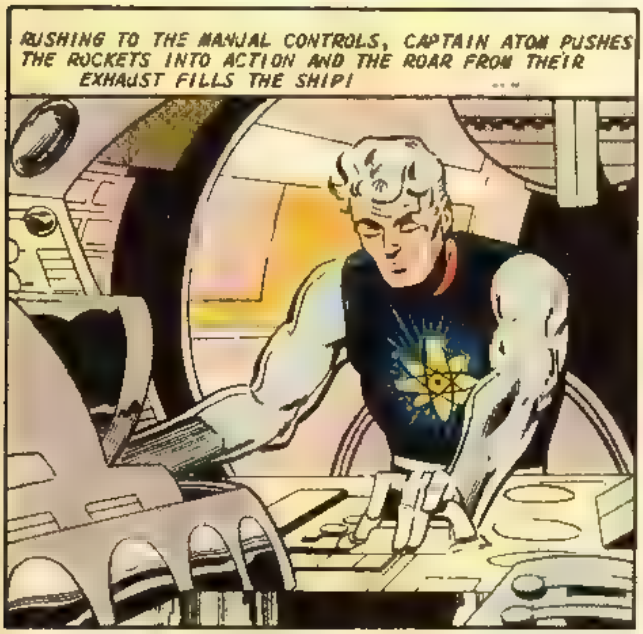
FANTASTIC! A WORLD WITH NO ONE ON IT! AN S.O.S. FROM AN EMPTY PLANET! AND NOW A REQUEST TO SAVE IT FROM THE RAVAGES OF THAT INSECT HORDE!

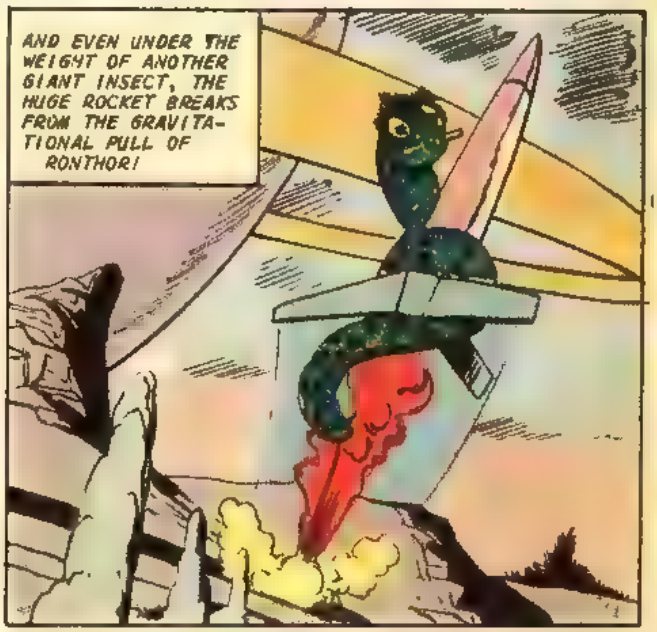
I'VE GOT TO DO IT! RONTHOR MUST BE PRESERVED!

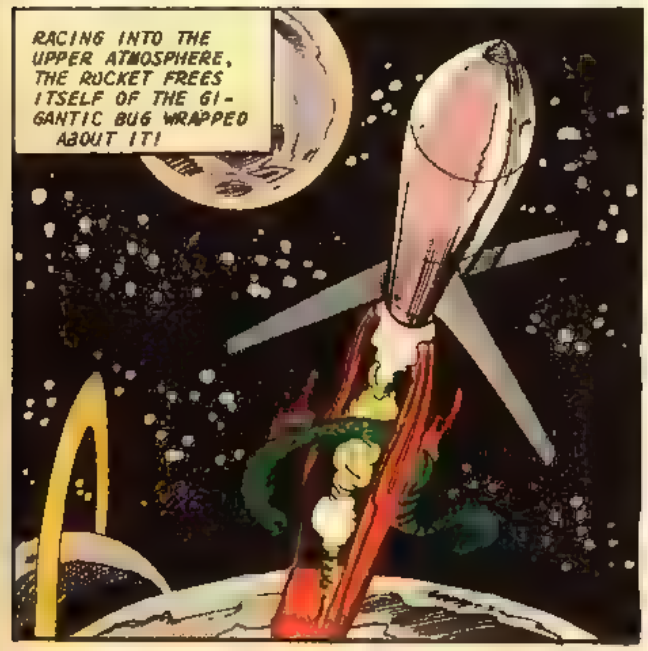

DETERMINED TO RID THE PLANET OF THE GIGANTIC INSECTS, CAPTAIN ATOM RACES BACK TO THE ROCKET SHIP AT FULL SPEED!
THIS HAS GOT TO WORK! THOSE CHEMICALS IN THE SHIP'S LAB SHOULD DO IT!

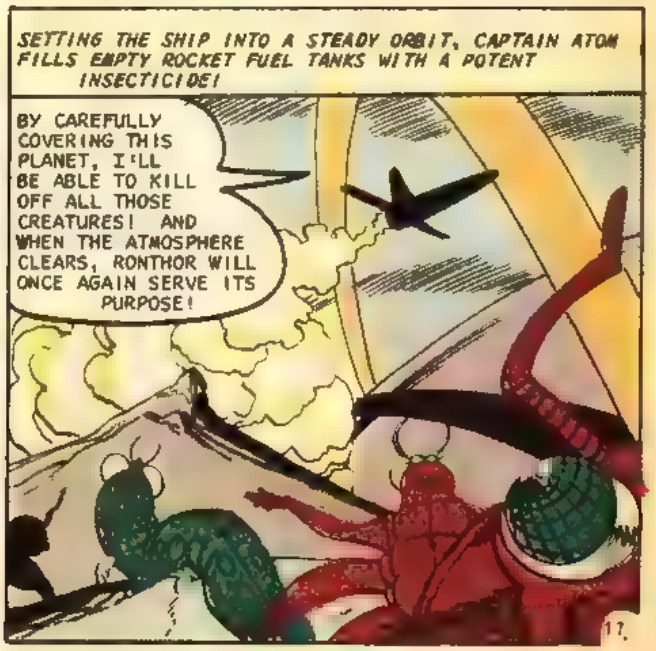
SETTING THE HUGE ROCKET BACK ON ITS LANDING GEAR, THE ATOMIC ACE CONCENTRATES ON THE PROBLEM AHEAD!
BY EJECTING THIS INSECTIBLE THROUGH THE EMPTY ROCKET FUEL TANK, I'LL BE ABLE TO SPRAY THE WHOLE PLANET AND...!

ANOTHER ONE! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT IN SPACE TO DO THIS JOB ANYWAY!


RUSHING TO THE MANUAL CONTROLS, CAPTAIN ATOM PUSHES THE ROCKETS INTO ACTION AND THE ROAR FROM THEIR EXHAUST FILLS THE SHIP!


AND EVEN UNDER THE WEIGHT OF ANOTHER GIANT INSECT, THE HUGE ROCKET BREAKS FROM THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL OF RONTHOR!


RACING INTO THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE, THE ROCKET FREES ITSELF OF THE GIGANTIC BUG WRAPPED ABOUT IT!


SETTING THE SHIP INTO A STEADY ORBIT, CAPTAIN ATOM FILLS EMPTY ROCKET FUEL TANKS WITH A POTENT INSECTICIDE!
BY CAREFULLY COVERING THIS PLANET, I'LL BE ABLE TO KILL OFF ALL THOSE CREATURES! AND WHEN THE ATMOSPHERE CLEARS, RONTHOR WILL ONCE AGAIN SERVE ITS PURPOSE!

DAYS PASS AS CAPTAIN ATOM COMPLETES THE JOB!

THOSE INSECTS SHOULD ALL BE DEAD BY NOW! WHEN THE RAINY SEASON STARTS, THE GAS WILL DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY AND LEAVE RONTHOR IN ITS SILENT PEACE!

HIS MISSION OVER, CAPTAIN ATOM SLIPS ON THE GLOVES THAT MAKE HIM A VITAL PART OF THE ROCKET'S MOTORS!

THIS HAD PROBABLY BEEN THE STRANGEST THING I'VE EVER DONE! I'VE SAVED AN EMPTY PLANET FROM RAVAGING INSECTS! BUT I'D BETTER GET BACK NOW!

AND SO THE SPACE SHIP ONCE MORE ENTERS THE WARP THAT CARRIED IT PASS THOUSANDS OF GALAXIES IN SECONDS! HOMEWARD BOUND IS CAPTAIN ATOM!

DAYS LATER THE ROCKET LEAVES THE WARP AND RETURNS TO ITS NORMAL SPACE AND TIME. BUT IT NOW MAGNETICALLY TOWS SOMETHING OUT OF THE WARP WITH IT!

AND WHEN IT BEGINS TO APPEAR THAT THE SHIP MIGHT HAVE RUN INTO TROUBLE BECAUSE OF CAPTAIN ATOM BEING A DAY LATE...

CAPTAIN ATOM TO BASE! I'LL BE LANDING ANY SECOND NOW!

HE'S BACK. BUT WHAT'S THAT OTHER BLIP ON THE RADAR SCREEN?

A WEIRD METALLIC OBJECT IS SEEN SURROUNDED BY FOUR-LEAVED CLOVERS, A CRYSTAL BALL, A BLACK CAT AND OTHER OBJECTS OF GOOD OR BAD LUCK!

13

WHATEVER IT IS, THAT OBJECT WILL CAUSE MORE ADVENTURE IN THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN ATOM AND ALL WHO WORK WITH HIM!

END

Dear Editor:

I demand equal time! My friend, David Puckett got his letter printed in PEACEMAKER #3 and I still haven't heard the last of it. Therefore I demand equal time. Although I am not writing PM, I am writing to Captain Atom.

Steve Ditko has hit his peak on CA #87 especially on the cover. It is the best that I have ever seen on a Charlton comic. The Fiery-Icer was a very good villain: even if he wasn't quite original, he was surely colorful. Although Rocke is a good artist, I don't think he should ink Ditko's pencils. Rocke should ink his own pencils and let Steve do his own.

Nightshade was fair, but the constant notes were a bit disconcerting from the story. Dave is a good writer (any member of the Academy knows that), but I think that the Image was a rather poor villain for Nightshade's first solo appearance.

Charlton has made quite a good advance by changing their cover emblem. Although I have not seen it on a cover it looks impressive on the ads.

I may as well comment on Steve's other characters. The Question although I have only seen one story is a very good hero even if he does remind me a bit of the Spirit.

The Blue Beetle is much better than his old counterpart, Dan Garrett, and I can't wait till I see the next BB. Steve does great on him, so don't get another artist for BB.

Next on the list is T-Bolt. Get a new artist and a new costume. ECCCH!.. it's terrible. PAM is a very capable writer, but his art leaves something to be desired. I recommend Rocke or Jim Aparo to do the job.

Judomaster is what every comic group has one of: a second-rate mag. Why is it second-rate? Because it has fair art and fair stories. Make it catch up to CA, PM and BB.

Charlton has, in a word, improved. From the least favorite comic to #2 is not a thing to be taken lightly. And you can "blame" it all on CA, BB, PM. The Question and The Sentinels. Thanks to you for reading enjoyment.

Alan Renfrow
7911 Acme Way
Louisville, Ky 40219

A) Steve doesn't want to ink Captain Atom. How do you like Frank's efforts?

B) Nightshade should get better. This was somewhat of an intro. It was, as you pointed out, her first solo. Give it time.

C) PAM's art seems to have been well received by fans in general. However, due to other circumstances, (to be announced later) Sergius O'Shaugnessy will write T-Bolt from #60 on and Pat Boyette will handle the art chores from #59 on.

D) Judomaster is currently our best-selling action-hero. It may not appeal to the fans (who are relatively few in number) but it seems to appeal to the other readers.

Okay...so we're still #2! And we still try harder!

Dear Editor

I must compliment you on CAPTAIN ATOM and BLUE BEETLE. Naturally with Steve's artwork, how can a comic go wrong? By the stationery I use you can see that Marvel turns me on! You have graduated from brand echh to #2. We all know you try harder. You have surpassed D.C., Thunder, Dell, Gold Key and many other trash items. The only thing that stands in your way is Marvel. But that is altogether a different story. And if you get rid of them, what would Irving Forbush do?

Robert O'Leary
23 N. Crescent Dr.
Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735

Well, he could always come to work for us! Anyway, what makes you think we'd want to get rid of Marvel? They're why we try harder. Competition is healthy for any industry...and being only second isn't too bad!

Dear Editor:

In CAPTAIN ATOM #87 I found a big mistake. On page 16, panel one, Captain Atom's foe the Fiery-Icer, says, "This icy blast should get these oil barrels in the right position for the next move." It should be oil drums. There is a great difference between drums and barrels. (I know because I am the son of the owner of the Hall Barrel Company.) Drums are metal and barrels are wood. Most likely oil would leak out of barrels unless the barrel was coated with paraphin. Other than that, it was a great mag. Keep up the good work.

Thomas Raymond
6823 Bay Road
Saginaw, Mich.

You're absolutely correct, Tom, and we apologize for our error, particularly to your father. But that is why they put erasers on the ends of all pencils...because we all make mistakes. By the way, you spelled paraffin wrong!

Dear Editor:

I just finished reading CAPTAIN ATOM #86, "The Strings of Punch and Jewelee."

David A. Kaler wrote a masterpiece. The great team of Ditko and Mastroserio are the best!

I have a question about Herb Field. I'd like to know how long he has been lettering for Charlton Comics.

"Nightshade" is a pleasant surprise and your greatest achievement. Keep her coming, and also the "Blue Beetle."

Honestly, I am stuck on your comics (happily) for life!

Norman Maser
167-94th Avenue N.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55433

Thanks and may we wish you a long and prosperous life!

Herb Field has been lettering for us, on and off, for about a year.

NIGHTSHADE

THE DARLING OF DARKNESS

THE IMAGE, A FOREIGN AGENT WITH STRANGE POWERS OVER MIRRORS, HAS KIDNAPPED EVE EDEN TO GET AT HER SENATOR FATHER AND HIS DEFENSE BILL! INTERRUPTED IN MEMORIES OF THE LAND OF NIGHTSHADES, EVE HAS GONE ALONG TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IMAGE AND HIS...

POETRY OF PERIL!

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME? *LET ME GO!!*

NOT UNTIL YOUR FATHER AND THE OTHER SENATORS AGREE TO MY PLANS!

CREATED AND WRITTEN BY
DAVID A. KALER
ARTISTICALLY CONCEIVED BY
JIM APARO

B-760

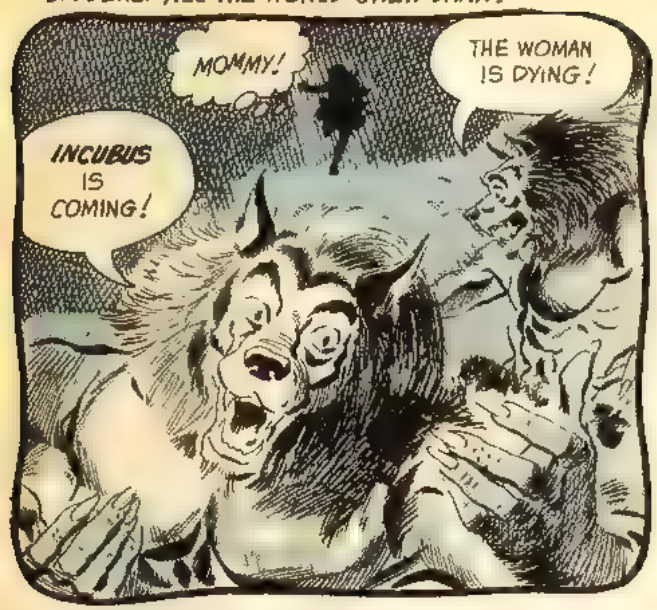
JUST MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME, MISS *JET SET!* YOU MAY NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO ACCEPT MY HOSPITALITY!!

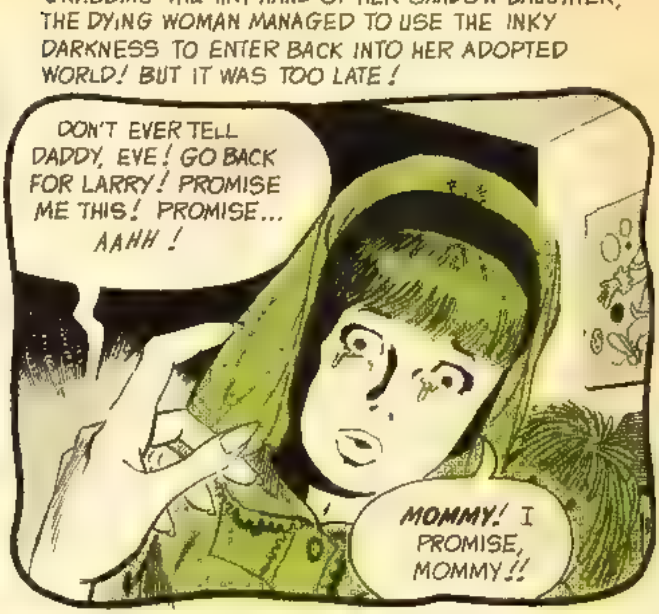
BOAST, BIG BOY! I COULD HAVE HAD YOU ON YOUR BACK LONG AGO IF I WANTED IT!

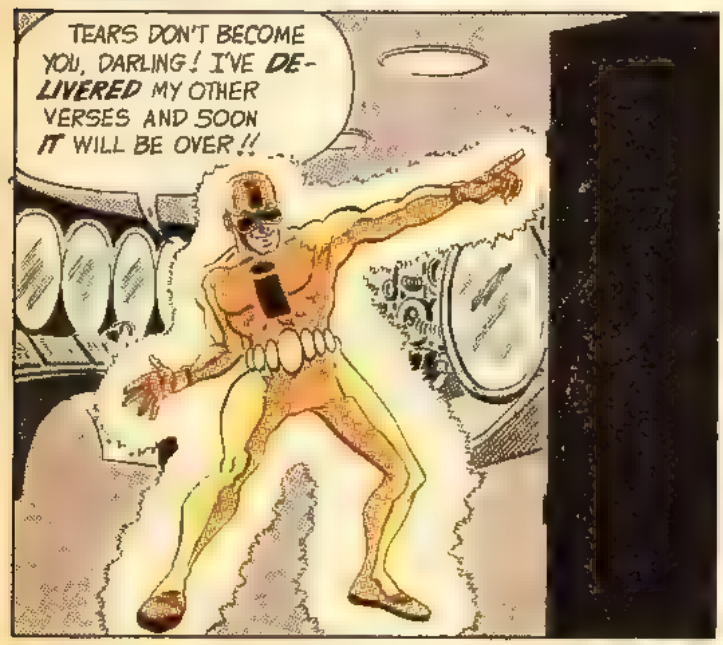
MY FATHER WILL NEVER AGREE TO YOUR PLANS!

AND IN THE EDEN MANSION, SENATOR EDEN IS READING THE VERSE LEFT BY THE IMAGE!
"WITHIN MY POWER IS YOUR DAUGHTER EVE! SO IN THIS HOUR YOU AGAIN MUST GRIEVE! BUT AT TWELVE TONIGHT I'LL BE BACK TO SEE IF YOU AND FRIENDS MIGHT TO MY PLANS AGREE! — THE IMAGE!"
SHALL I CALL THE POLICE, SIR?
NO! WE'LL HAVE TO LET THIS IMAGE CHARACTER MAKE HIS NEXT MOVE! HE MUSTN'T HURT EVE!
BUT WHAT IS EVE THINKING? WHAT ARE HER PLANS?.
IT'S ALL LIKE BEFORE! A THREAT TO MY LIFE AND NO SHADOWS TO RUN INTO AND CHANGE MYSELF!
WE WERE CAUGHT BY ONE OF THE INCUBUS' FLYING WARRIORS.
RUN INTO THE SHADOWS AND CHANGE, CHILDREN! ESCAPE!!
THERE'S NO ESCAPE THIS TIME!
LET ME GO! I'VE GOT TO SAVE MY CHILDREN!!
GET THEM ALL! THE INCUBUS WILL REWARD US ALL HANDSOMELY!
MOTHER! MAKE HIM LET ME GO!!
2

SET HIM FREE! LET HIM GO!
GET AWAY, MOTHER! FORGET ME!
FRANTICALLY SHE STRUGGLED TO FREE HER SON .. BUT THERE WERE TOO MANY OF THEM!
HAVE TO ESCAPE! IF ONLY THERE WERE DARKNESS!
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY IN THE BRIGHTNESS! YOU'RE OURS!
SAFETY IN SHADOWS! GOT TO BECOME A SHADOW!
I'LL GET THE GIRL!!
BUT WHERE'S MOTHER AND LARRY? WHERE ARE THEY?
YOU'LL NEVER KEEP US HERE!
SHE HAS YOUR SABER! GET IT!
FORGET ME, MOTHER! RUN!!
FOOL! SHE'S BEEN STABBED!
AYYEEE
YOU'VE KILLED HER!

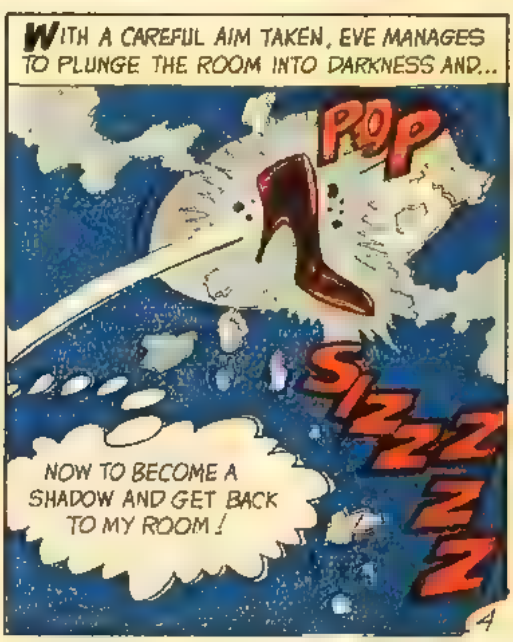

SUDDENLY ALL THE WORLD GREW DARK!
MOMMY!
THE WOMAN IS DYING!
INCUBUS IS COMING!


GRABBING THE TINY HAND OF HER SHADOW DAUGHTER, THE DYING WOMAN MANAGED TO USE THE INKY DARKNESS TO ENTER BACK INTO HER ADOPTED WORLD! BUT IT WAS TOO LATE!
DON'T EVER TELL DADDY, EVE! GO BACK FOR LARRY! PROMISE ME THIS! PROMISE... AAHH!
MOMMY! I PROMISE, MOMMY!!


TEARS DON'T BECOME YOU, DARLING! I'VE DE-LIVERED MY OTHER VERSES AND SOON IT WILL BE OVER!!

HE AND THE OTHERS WILL HAVE TO GIVE UP THEIR NEW PLAN TO BOLSTER YOUR NATION'S DEFENSES! MY GOVERNMENT DOESN'T THINK MUCH OF IT! GOOD BYE, DEAR!

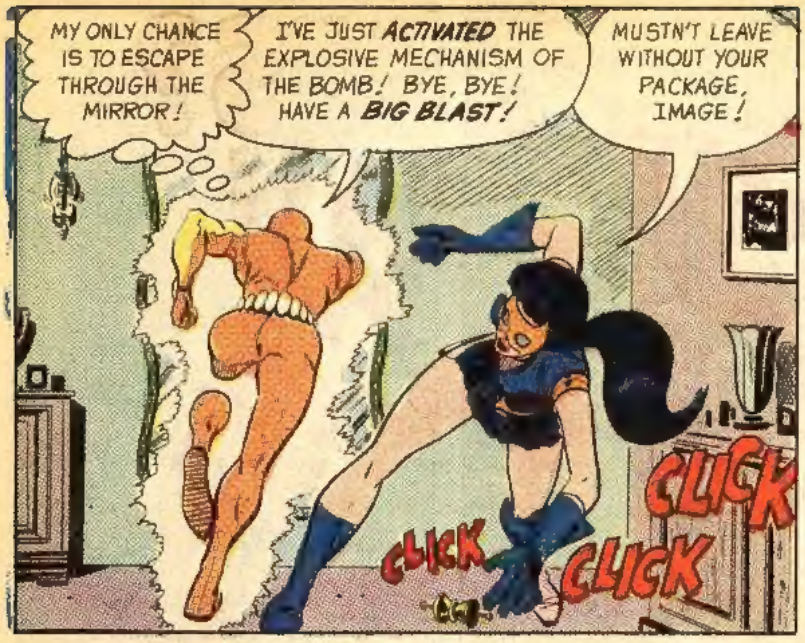
WITH NO TIME FOR FURTHER MEMORIES, EVE SEEKS A WAY TO ESCAPE!
THERE'S TOO MUCH LIGHT IN HERE! IF I CAN ONLY GET IT DARK ENOUGH TO BE-COME A SHADOW! MY SHOES!..
SNAP


WITH A CAREFUL AIM TAKEN, EVE MANAGES TO PLUNGE THE ROOM INTO DARKNESS AND...
POP
SIZZZZZZ
NOW TO BECOME A SHADOW AND GET BACK TO MY ROOM!

AND AT THE EDEN HOME PUZZLED LEGISLATORS HAVE GATHERED BECAUSE OF THE STRANGE POETRY THEY HAVE RECEIVED...
WHO IS THIS IMAGE? WHAT DOES HE WANT?
I DON'T KNOW! BUT HE HAS MY DAUGHTER EVE!
AND NOW I'VE GOT YOU TOO! AND IF YOU DON'T AGREE TO MY PLANS, THIS BOMB WILL GUARANTEE MY SUCCESS!
YOUR BILL TO TIGHTEN THE COUNTRY'S DEFENSE SYSTEM MUST NOT BE PASSED YOU'LL AGREE OR DIE!!
DON'T BE HASTY IMAGE! LET ME DARKEN YOUR OUTLOOK ON THINGS.
. AND LET ME THROW YOU INTO THE RING OF VICTIMS.
OOOF! NEVER EXPECTED THAT!!
SCORE ONE FOR YOU, IMAGE! NOW IT'S MY TURN AGAIN!
YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME TO TRY.

CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

NOW!
LOW BRIDGE...
HIGH BRIDGE! IT'S A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHANGE HER MIND!
AYYEEF
NOW I'M CALLING YOU...
FOOL! THAT BUMBLING IDIOT HELPED ME!!
NOW I'M IN CONTROL OF THINGS AGAIN! AND I THINK I'LL GET A LITTLE BOMB HAPPY IF NO ONE MINDS!!
THE LIGHTS!! SOMEBODY PUT OUT THE LIGHTS!!
WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE IS SHE??
I'LL BE DELIGHTED TO LET YOU KNOW SOMETIME!
HERE'S A BOMB FOR YOU, IMAGE!!
POW!


MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE MIRROR!
I'VE JUST ACTIVATED THE EXPLOSIVE MECHANISM OF THE BOMB! BYE, BYE! HAVE A BIG BLAST!
MUSTN'T LEAVE WITHOUT YOUR PACKAGE, IMAGE!
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

DISAPPEARING INTO THE NIGHT, EVE QUICKLY RETURNS TO ASSURE HER FATHER OF HER SAFETY!
DAD! YOU'RE ALRIGHT! NIGHTSHADE GOT HERE IN TIME THEN!
EVE! SHE DID RESCUE YOU!

MORE OF THE DARK MYSTERY SURROUNDING THE ORIGIN OF NIGHTSHADE IS REVEALED NEXT ISSUE! **DON'T MISS IT!!**

ACTION-HEROES?
WE GOT 'EM!!!
THE CHRONOLOGY
THUNDERBOLT
THE
PEACEMAKER
the
BLUE
BEETLE
5 OF 'EM
TO BE EXACT...
AND THEY'RE
NOT
HALF BAD!
JUDO
MASTER
CAPTAIN
ATOM